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almost disabled him from intellectual work during a large part of his early manhood, and sometimes brought him to the verge of despair. Nevertheless, it was while suffering from this great affliction that he succeeded with some help from his sister in preparing his text-book on chemistry, which at once made him known to the public, and gave him the means of support. This treatise was, in Mr. Fiske's opinion, Youmans's germinal book, all his subsequent work being foreshadowed in it. Next came his career as a scientific lecturer, in which he was successful not only in a pecuniary way but also in increasing the popular interest in the physical sciences.

The rest of the book before us is devoted to those wider enterprises in which Youmans engaged, beginning with his first acquaintance with Herbert Spencer and his agency in securing the publication of Spencer's works in this country. This part of the book is enriched by a large amount of correspondence between the two men, which not only shows their business relations to each other and to their publishers, but reveals many interesting traits of character. There are also letters from Huxley, Tyndall and other scientists, besides many that passed between Youmans and the members of his family. A full account is also given of the establishment of the *Popular Science Monthly*, which, it seems, was successful from the start, and also of the International Scientific Series, which was not started without some difficulty, but which, as our readers well know, proved both scientifically and commercially successful in the end.

The book closes with a series of extracts from Youmans's writings, giving his views on education, on the relations between religion and science and on other subjects; so that readers have before them as full an

account of the life and work of the popular scientist as they are likely to need, and one that is worthy of its subject and of its author.

Elements of Chemistry, Descriptive and Qualitative, Briefer Course. By JAMES H. SHEPARD. Boston, D. C. Heath and Co. 1863, 240 p.

THE success of Shepard's Inorganic Chemistry, as exemplified by its use in over three hundred and fifty colleges and schools, and by the high words of praise which have already been accorded it, is sufficient warrant of Professor Shepard's understanding of the needs of a school text-book in chemistry. The present volume is prepared as a briefer course and is intended to meet the needs of secondary school instruction, particularly where chemistry as a study has been forced into a limited period. In addition to the elements of inorganic chemistry, the author has added to the completeness of the work by a chapter on organic chemistry, treating successfully in an elementary manner this rather difficult department. The book is clear, concise, and well adapted for young pupils. It is interesting to note that Professor Shepard's Inorganic Chemistry has been recommended by the Committee of Secondary School Studies, appointed at the meeting of the National Educational Association.

NOTES AND NEWS.

A CROWDED meeting of the members of the Victoria Institute and their friends took place recently at London, England, in the Theatre of the Society of

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